

Dear Committee Members,

I am a Newtown mother of three - a first grader, a fourth grader and a sixth grader. I appreciate your attention to the issue of gun safety and I hope that you will do something to limit ammunition magazines to 10, ban assault weapons, enhance universal background checks, and require a permit to purchase ammunition.

This debate is exhausting. I have attended numerous meetings and hearings. Written many, many letters. I helped organize seven buses to bring our Newtown residents to the March for Change on February 14. All of this was done with the intent of helping to protect my children from future gun violence. However, while I am trying desperately to get my legislators to listen and understand my point of view, my kids are missing me. They want me home, and that is what the gun lobby is hoping for - that the mothers will go back to caring for the kids that they are trying to protect.

I am torn. Do I take away precious time from my children to lobby? Whatever the decision, I want you to know that just because the mothers can't turn out day after day in Hartford, it does not change the argument. It does not change the fact that the majority of people, in survey after survey, want these common-sense measures. And it doesn't change the fact that the right to bear arms should not trump the right of a child to grow up.

Will the changes you make today protect our children tomorrow? No. It is going to take a long time before our culture changes and the gun laws make a difference, but I am convinced that if you pass them, eventually our children will be better protected.

Please pass these restrictions. It's just common sense.

Thank you,

Michelle Ku

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